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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly, in pursuance of its resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992, the final report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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ANNEX

Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the completion of the Committee's work

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to submit a final report to it on behalf of the Committee on the completion of the Committee's work, following the conclusion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

II. BACKGROUND

2. In 1992, my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Jean Ripert (France), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, reported to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the outcome of the negotiations undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change. 1/

3. As regards the latter, Mr. Ripert recalled resolution INC/1992/1 of 9 May 1992 on interim arrangements and article 21 of the Convention 2/ as providing the basis for future work regarding the Convention. The main thrust, he added, was to maintain the present rhythm and pace of work, to prepare for the early and effective entry into force of the Convention and to encourage action in support of its provisions, even before it formally entered into force.

4. With that concern in mind, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/195, in which it, inter alia, provided for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention; to contribute to the effective operation of the interim arrangements; and to promote a coherent and coordinated programme of activities aimed at supporting the entry into force and implementation of the Convention, paying particular attention, in that context, to capacity-building in developing and other countries. A second phase of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was thus established. The Assembly invited the Committee to implement expeditiously the plan of preparatory work drawn up at its sixth session. 3/ At that session, held from 7 to 10 December 1992, the Committee had decided to focus its future work on the following issues:

(a) Matters relating to commitments

(i) Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;

(ii) Criteria for joint implementation;

(iii) First review of the information communicated by each party included in annex I of the Convention;

(iv) Review of the adequacy of commitments in article 4, paragraphs 2 (a) and (b);

(b) Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to the developing country parties

(i) Implementation of article 11, Financial mechanism, paragraphs 1 to 4;

(ii) Provision to developing country parties of technical and financial support;

(iii) Consideration of the maintenance of the interim arrangements referred to in article 21, paragraph 3;

(c) Procedural, institutional and legal matters

(i) Rules of procedure and financial rules of the Conference of the Parties and of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention;

(ii) Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning;

(iii) Consideration of the establishment of a multilateral consultative process for the resolution of questions regarding implementation.

5. It was upon me that the honour and privilege were bestowed of leading the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in accomplishing its new mission. I wish therefore to take this opportunity to thank delegations participating in the work of the Committee for this distinction and for their continued support. I also want to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Jean Ripert, for the able and competent manner in which he conducted our work in negotiating the Framework Convention.

III. OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

6. The composition of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the time of the conclusion of its work was as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Rungano P. Karimanzira (Zimbabwe)
Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Ms. Penelope Wensley (Australia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

Working Group I

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Mohamed M. Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)
Ms. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen (Germany)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary)

Working Group II

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan)
Mr. James T. Stovall III (Federated States of Micronesia)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. John W. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

7. I should like to point out the pleasure I had in working with the members of the Bureau and wish to extend my appreciation for their cooperation and support. I should also like to thank the following representatives who served as officers of previous bureaux under my chairmanship for their contributions to the work of the Committee: Mr. Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico), Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria) and Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu).

IV. PARTICIPATION

8. Participation by Governments was extensive at all sessions of the Committee with the number of delegations represented normally fluctuating between 130 and 160. Participation by developing countries through representatives from capitals was determined, to a large extent, by the availability of financial support for the purpose from the special voluntary fund established under General Assembly resolution 45/212.

9. The following United Nations offices and programmes were regularly represented at sessions of the Committee: the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were also represented: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank/UNDP/UNEP and the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

10. In addition, attesting to the increased interest in the Convention by various segments of the international community, the sessions of the Committee were always actively followed by representatives of intergovernmental and

non-governmental organizations reflecting a wide range of views on the subjects under consideration.

V. THE ROLE OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

11. The role of the interim secretariat in the second phase of work of the Committee was spelt out by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/195. The secretariat was requested to function as the interim secretariat until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties, to provide substantive support to the evolving work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and to support the Committee in its activities aimed at supporting the entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention, including strengthening the capacities of developing and all other countries to prepare for their participation in the Convention. Various forms of support were extended to the Secretariat by the United Nations, especially the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, UNDP and UNEP, as well as by WMO.

12. On behalf of the Committee and my own, I should like to extend to the Executive Secretary and, through him, to all his colleagues in the secretariat our most sincere appreciation for the dedicated manner in which the secretariat always supported the work of the Committee. Without the efforts and competence of the secretariat, the Committee would have faced great difficulties in fulfilling its mandate. Furthermore, the secretariat has now opened a new area of work and analysis as it has embarked into the compilation and evaluation of national communications and into the in-depth reviews of those communications. Of all the efforts in which the international community is engaged to protect the environment and preserve natural resources, there is none that compares to this one, both in terms of the methodological rigour applied and the multiplicity of economic activities involved.

VI. THE WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

13. It is to the credit of the international community that it decided to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee after the adoption and signing of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Without a doubt, the continued existence of the Committee, in and by itself, allowed for the momentum of intergovernmental work on the Convention to be maintained by enabling States that had participated in the negotiation of the Convention to carry work forward without delay and with the required focus on the specific needs of the Convention. In addition, as a universal forum, the Committee allowed for additional States to join in that process.

14. Indeed, I firmly believe that the uninterrupted work of the Committee after a record 154 Governments signed the Convention at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 was responsible in large part for the early entry into force of the Convention on 21 March 1994. In the space of only three years, the Convention went from a conceptual to a concrete reality, establishing mechanisms and procedures to carry forward cooperation among States in stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe level.

By the time the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee concluded its work on 17 February 1995, 122 States had ratified the Convention.

15. I consider it a distinguished privilege to report to the General Assembly on behalf of the Committee on the completion of the Committee's work. By the end of its eleventh and final session, the Committee had concluded a considerable amount of work and referred nine draft decisions for adoption by the Conference. The Committee also referred a number of other issues to the Conference on which work had progressed quite considerably. I will, however, refer to only a few aspects of the work of the Committee that, in my view, contributed in particular to the strengthening of the framework provided by the Convention, as well as to setting the tone for the work of the Conference of the Parties. A thorough account of the work of the Committee at its sixth to eleventh sessions is contained in the reports of the Committee itself, 4/ as well as in reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/47/466 and A/49/485).

16. Given that the Convention assigns a leading role to developed country parties (included in annex I to the Convention) in implementing commitments relating to the mitigation of climate change, it was essential that the Committee conclude work on the question of preparation and submission of national communications from annex I parties. Even before it referred a draft decision on the subject for adoption by the Conference of the Parties, the Committee, with the assistance of the interim secretariat of the Convention, had in effect set in motion a legally binding mechanism for the reporting by those States parties of their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, projections of future such emissions and mitigating measures undertaken with a view to fulfilling their commitments under the Convention. In that connection, the Committee is grateful to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the useful information it provided to the Committee in that process.

17. Draft decisions on the questions of maintenance of the interim arrangements referred to in article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and on arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and an operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism were also referred by the Committee to the Conference for adoption. These issues are directly related to that of guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria to the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism, which, though incomplete at the closing of the Committee's work, was eventually finalized by the Conference of the Parties. As a result of the action taken on these three issues, it has been decided that the restructured Global Environment Facility will continue, on an interim basis, to be the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in article 11 of the Convention, under the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria. To a large extent, implementation of the Convention by parties will depend on how effectively the Facility carries out its mission.

18. Other issues on which the Committee completed its work and referred draft decisions for adoption by the Conference included the review of first communications from annex I parties, first communications from parties not included in annex I to the Convention and methodological issues.

19. On the issue of the role of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention, including their programmes of work and calendars of meetings, the Committee completed most of the work but left a few points open for consideration by the Conference. Likewise, the question of the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning was left pending. Further deliberations were still needed on the questions of the Convention budget and the location of the secretariat.

20. Two issues of great importance for the future of the Convention on which the Committee achieved some progress but left the remainder of the work to the Conference of the Parties were the review of the adequacy of article 4, subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b), and criteria for joint implementation. On the question of the review of the adequacy of article 4, subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b), the Committee had before it a proposal for a protocol to the Convention on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, tabled by Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of the States party to the Convention that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States, as well as proposals for further elements of a protocol to the Convention submitted by Germany. In that regard, appreciation was expressed and reservations were made by a number of parties and other Member States of the United Nations regarding the proposals. On the subject of joint implementation, the Committee had before it draft texts proposed by the Group of 77 and China, the European Community and its member States, and the United States of America. It decided to recommend that the Conference of the Parties should continue the consideration of the issue, taking into account those three draft texts, as well as comments made and views expressed at its eleventh session.

VII. CONCLUSION

21. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was assigned a formidable task when it was created by the General Assembly in 1990 - to complete negotiations on a framework convention on climate change prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992, so that the convention might be opened for signature at the Conference. I am sure that there were then those who thought the exercise to be impossible.

22. Wisely, the Committee sought to establish a process that would allow the international community to establish common courses of action in which cooperation, as opposed to confrontation, would predominate. By choosing to negotiate a framework convention instead of an instrument that would impose strict regulations, the Committee encouraged wide participation by Governments in its work and fostered a spirit of cooperation that is, no doubt, the basis for the effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As the Committee moved into the second phase of its work, that is, to promote early adherence to the Convention and to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the need for that spirit of cooperation became ever more present.

23. I know that, at the conclusion of the work of the Committee, again there were those who thought the Committee could have been more productive and reached

more concrete results. In my view, however, the balance has been very positive - while each step taken by the Committee might have appeared to be modest, the cumulative result is that, in a mere three years, the international community managed to create a framework for concrete action to be taken in response to the common concern with the adverse effects of climate change.

24. I believe the Committee fulfilled its mandate. Nevertheless, I must sound a warning note. Since the time when the Convention was opened for signature, some developed countries have not made adequate efforts to meet their commitments under the Convention. Some of those countries have even argued, unfoundedly in my personal view, that the commitment relating to the return of emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels expires at the end of this century and that, consequently, their emissions may start growing again at the end of that period. This prospect contradicts the expectations created in the international community when the Convention was adopted.

25. As the General Assembly will by now have apprised itself of the results reached by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, 5/ it will realize that the Conference has gone some significant steps further towards the strengthening of the Convention. By having concluded that subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b) of article 4 of the Convention, which contain specific commitments by developed country parties and other parties included in annex I to the Convention, are not adequate, the Conference of the Parties has given the international community a testimony of the seriousness and responsibility with which it regards the question of greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on climate change. That testimony is further highlighted by the fact that the Conference of the Parties has given itself little more than two years to carry out a process aimed at strengthening the commitments of annex I parties in article 4, subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b), through the adoption of a protocol or another legal instrument. Completion of the work on the question is scheduled for as early as possible in 1997, with a view to adopting the results at the third session of the Conference of the Parties. 6/

26. The Conference of the Parties has honoured me by electing me Chairman of the ad hoc group set up to carry out the Berlin Mandate. 6/ Included in the Mandate is the aim for developed countries to elaborate policies and measures, as well as to set quantified limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames for their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. The recent scientific assessments produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirm the need to adopt additional policies and measures. The Berlin Mandate is a substantive task that must be concluded within a limited period of time. To do this, it will be necessary to put new momentum into the fulfilment of the commitments made in 1992 and to overcome the lack of resolve to which I have alluded. It is important to realize that, even if action consists mainly of precautionary and "no regrets" measures, profound changes will still be needed to accomplish those goals. That will demand a particular effort from certain sectors of society in the developed countries and it will inevitably come at a cost.

27. Much work has been accomplished, much work remains to be done. Throughout the years of existence of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, the support of the international

community for its work through the action taken by the General Assembly was essential to keeping the momentum and moving the process steadily forward. The Committee's work is now finished, but not that of the Convention - this is just the beginning. The continued support of the community of nations for the effective implementation of the Convention is a legacy that is owed to all the generations to come.

Notes

1/ Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for A Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Jean Ripert (France), on behalf of the committee (A/CONF.151/8).

2/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

3/ Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of its sixth session, held at Geneva from 7 to 10 December 1992 (A/AC.237/24).

4/ Ibid., as well as the reports of the Committee on its seventh session (A/AC.237/31); eighth session (A/AC.237/41); ninth session (A/AC.237/55); tenth session (A/AC.237/76 and Corr.1); and its eleventh and final session (A/AC.237/91 and Add.1).

5/ See Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995, Parts I and II (FCCC/CP/1995/7 and Add.1).

6/ Ibid., decision 1/CP.1 of 7 April 1995.

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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Study on the impact on children of armed conflict

Progress report by the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/157 entitled "Protection of children affected by armed conflicts", in which the Assembly expressed grave concern about the tragic situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts; urged all Member States to continue seeking comprehensive improvement of the situation with appropriate and concrete measures; and requested bodies and organizations of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within the scope of their respective mandates, to cooperate in order to ensure more effective action in addressing the problem of children affected by armed conflicts.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint an expert, working in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to undertake a comprehensive study of this question, including the participation of children in armed conflict and the relevance and adequacy of existing standards. The study is to make specific recommendations on ways and means to prevent children from being affected by armed conflicts and tc improve their protection, for example, from the indiscriminate use of all weapons of war, especially anti-personnel mines. The study will also recommend measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children affected by armed conflict, in particular measures to ensure proper medical care and adequate nutrition, taking into account the recommendations by the World Conference on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In August 1994, Ms. Graça Machel was appointed to undertake the study.

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3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to contribute to the study. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the study at its forty-ninth session. At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 49/209, in which it took note of the Secretary-General's report (A/49/643) and requested that a second progress report be submitted at its fiftieth session.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN

4. The expert is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and UNICEF. Professional and administrative assistance is being provided jointly by UNICEF and the Centre for Human Rights. The study enjoys the guidance and advice of a group of eminent persons made up of individuals of international repute and integrity drawn from every geographic region and representing a wide diversity of political, religious and cultural backgrounds; this group also acts as a public advocate. The study receives further counsel from a technical advisory group composed of men and women with recognized international expertise in the areas to be studied and in the welfare of children in general; its task is to help ensure that the study benefits from the highest standards of accuracy and professionalism. Both groups have met once during the last 12 months and are expected to meet at least three times over the course of the study.

5. In order to ensure a coordinated response by the major international bodies representing the rights of children in armed conflict, an inter-agency task force meets periodically at Geneva. Participants include representatives from the Centre for Human Rights, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO. Representatives of non-governmental organizations have also played a major role in developing the research programme and are actively participating in the study.

6. Wide-ranging consultations at the regional level are under way. These are being organized in collaboration with UNICEF, Centre and UNHCR regional or country representatives, regional economic commissions and other international agencies and non-governmental organizations. National institutions, ministries of health and social welfare, human rights organizations, the media, religious organizations, independent experts and eminent leaders within civil society are being consulted. Military authorities, Governments and legal experts are also involved, particularly with regard to the application of international humanitarian and human rights law and the reinforcement of preventive measures. To date, consultations on eastern and southern Africa and the Arab region have been held in Addis Ababa and Cairo, respectively. Other consultations are planned for Asia, Europe and Central America.

7. At the national level, field visits and consultations are being undertaken. The expert has visited Angola, Rwanda, Cambodia and Lebanon, with other visits being planned over the coming months. Field visits have allowed the expert to meet with government representatives, as well as with non-governmental organizations, youth and community organizations, religious groups, agencies, national institutions and other interested parties. They have also provided a first-hand opportunity to witness the impact of armed conflict on all aspects of the child's life, to hear children and their families tell of their own experiences, and to observe the implementation of programmes designed to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children within their families and communities. The study is paying particularly close attention to the experience of countries dealing with the long-term consequences of armed conflict.

8. As set out in the Secretary-General's first progress report (A/49/643), the final report of the study will be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session in 1996. The report was made available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session to facilitate its consideration of the study, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 48/157; the Commission will receive a further report at its fifty-second session.

III. CONCLUSIONS

9. The study on the impact on children of armed conflict will seek to give new coherence and fresh impetus to the efforts of the international community to protect children and children's rights from the effects of armed conflicts. The study will draw on a wide range of practices and experiences at all levels, which will be combined in a comprehensive appraisal of the needs of children, leading in turn to specific recommendations for action directed to the national, regional and international communities to enable them to respond more effectively to those needs.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, emphasized the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development, and stressed the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities; commended the Institute for its efforts to focus on problems that constitute barriers to improving the status of women and thus impede overall development and progress; urged the Institute to continue to strengthen its activities in the areas of research, training and information aimed at mainstreaming gender in development strategies and giving women greater visibility by valuating their contribution to social and economic development as important means of empowering women and improving their status; requested the Institute to assist with the substantive preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, given its key role in the areas of research and training and its expertise in gender statistics; and expressed its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Institute to strengthen its programmatic linkages with other United Nations organizations, including the regional commissions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other organizations and groups, thereby broadening the scope of its operations, making optimum use of its limited financial resources and attaining a greater outreach and impact of its work.

3. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General on INSTRAW (A/48/301), other resolutions have been adopted that have implications for the Institute's work programme. In its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and requested the Council to submit its final recommendation to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session. At that session, the Assembly, in its resolution 49/160 of 23 December 1994, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, through the Advisory Committee, an updated report; requested the Council to re-examine the issue at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the item on the advancement of women; and decided to take a final decision at its fiftieth session on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM, taking into account the recommendations made by the Council and the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and of the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women.

4. In accordance with its mandate and the recommendations of its Board of Trustees, the Institute has made every effort to strengthen its research, training, information and advocacy role in key areas affecting the advancement of women, and in facilitating their empowerment and inclusion as equal partners in development.

II. PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

5. The Institute viewed the biennium 1994-1995 as a time of assessment of past and current activities and intensification of efforts to bring to fruition the agenda set for the advancement of women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and assist in ensuring that the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of this agenda would be furthered at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

6. Bearing in mind INSTRAW's mandate, 2/ which is "to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues world wide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions", INSTRAW's work programme for the biennium 1994-1995 was structured towards the specific objectives set for the Conference as well as towards clarifying the strong relationship that exists between the advancement of women and sustainable development. That relationship is based on the premise that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full and active participation of women.

7. The need to understand and correct the societal obstacles that constrain their participation and to recognize fully, value and mobilize women's dynamic involvement in the development process, forms the conceptual framework for the work of INSTRAW. Overcoming these obstacles requires a comprehensive

empowerment process, which in turn is an essential prerequisite to the implementation of equitable sustainable development.

8. The period following the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace, 1975-1984, has witnessed fundamental changes in and a broadening of the understanding of issues related to women in development. Research and experience since the Nairobi Conference clearly demonstrate that the role of women in development must be considered within the broader context of gender relations in society, the State and the economy. This broadening of perspective also implies that desired changes in the status of women are inevitably tied to the reorganization of gender relations in the household, the community and the nation. It also implies a dynamic role for women in shaping the course of development and influencing the decisions and processes that affect their lives, rather than a static notion of development into which women need to be integrated.

9. This change in perception is central to the work of the United Nations development agencies. Research has shown that the contribution of women is crucial to the attainment of development objectives and their exclusion is costly and detrimental to the process of sustainable development. Research in this area needs to be pursued through further studies on issues such as valuing women's unpaid work and related time-use studies. The results of those studies must be disseminated to national and international policy makers.

10. Further research and analyses are required to challenge the entrenched belief that equality and efficiency are mutually exclusive, that there must be a trade-off among those objectives and that investment in women is an economic burden that reduces the efficiency of the economy, and to advance the argument that investment in women enhances economic performance and directly contributes to poverty alleviation and balanced socio-economic development.

11. It is within this conceptual framework that INSTRAW has developed its research programme on the linkages between changes in the status of women and the achievement of equitable sustainable development goals.

12. In its training efforts, INSTRAW has developed models for the effective transfer of the knowledge gained through research and study to various groups that can influence the course of development, especially women from all walks of life and at all levels. Access to knowledge and information is empowerment; INSTRAW considers its training and communication activities as part of the empowerment process to help women and men to change and reorganize gender relations for mutual benefit.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INSTITUTE'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

13. The Institute's programme for the biennium 1994-1995 was built around three broad themes: empowerment of women; statistics and indicators on gender issues; and women, environment and sustainable development.

A. Empowerment of women

14. As listed above, experimental evidence and analysis shows that women's economic and political empowerment is a crucial prerequisite for sustainable development.

15. Individual or collective empowerment is based essentially on access to, ownership of and control over economic resources. These are, in turn, basic factors to allow full participation in processes to advance these objectives and need to be analysed in relation to the formal sector as well as the informal sector and the conditions prevailing in transition economies.

1. Gender impact analysis of credit projects

16. Under this programme element a publication on women and credit was prepared for presentation at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Credit for Women - Why is it so important? 3/ presents a global overview of a variety of credit schemes for the rural and the urban poor designed to overcome the constraints that the poor, particularly poor women, face in having access to institutionalized financial schemes and to facilitate their access to financial resources. This study covers schemes at the design stage as well as schemes that are under implementation in different countries. The study was published under the joint authority of INSTRAW and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW).

17. A case study on gender impact analysis of credit projects will be finalized by late 1995. The Dominican Association for the Development of Microentrepreneurs, which is an internationally acknowledged micro-finance institution delivering credit to women and men micro-entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic, was contracted by INSTRAW to carry out a survey among its clients. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also collaborated in the design of the survey. The data from the survey are being analysed by INSTRAW and a final report on the survey will be prepared in collaboration with the Economic Research Unit of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

18. During the biennium under review, INSTRAW participated in numerous meetings relevant to the credit projects, which permitted the exchange of expertise, information and experience between INSTRAW and other concerned regional and international organizations.

2. Training on gender issues

19. INSTRAW has received numerous requests for training workshops on gender issues, particularly from national agencies, local organizations and international development agencies located in the Dominican Republic. During the present biennium, training workshops or seminars have been held together with the Directorate General for the Advancement of Women, Women in Development, a local organization that carries out development projects with women in rural areas and ENTRENA, Inc., also a local organization that oversees non-governmental organizations receiving project funds from USAID. Subjects covered included gender and development, addressed to local trade-union leaders; women and rural development; gender and domestic violence; and gender and women's human rights, with the participation of women and men police officers. Plans are under way to hold a workshop on gender issues to train personnel from all United Nations agencies with offices in the Dominican Republic.

20. INSTRAW continues to receive several requests for training workshops on gender analysis from government agencies, academic centres and non-governmental organizations, particularly from Central America and the Caribbean region, as well as United Nations agencies in the subregion.

B. Statistics and indicators on gender issues

21. Adequate and reliable statistics are basic requirements for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects as well as for resource allocation. INSTRAW's programme on gender statistics and indicators is aimed at improving data collection and statistical methods, and at developing new concepts and methodologies that can better reflect present working and living conditions based on today's political, economic, technological, cultural and social realities, particularly as they affect women, incorporating such variables as the impact of market fluctuations, economic recession, jobs and employment contraction.

1. Methods for valuing the contribution of women

22. Outputs of phase I of this programme element resulted in the publication of a monograph entitled "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output". 4/ The monograph was issued as a sales publication and was available at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The monograph addressed three major issues, namely: (a) development of improved data-collection techniques for capturing and measuring paid and unpaid contribution of both women and men; (b) development of imputation techniques to value unpaid work; and (c) inclusion of household production in the United Nations System of National Accounts through satellite accounts.

23. Highlights and conclusions of this study were presented at an intergovernmental work session of statisticians for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, which was held from 6 to 8 March 1995. Participants recognized the value of this publication as a basis for the eventual development

of international guidelines, norms and techniques for defining, measuring and valuing "satellite accounts" for household production.

24. On the basis of the recommendations in the monograph, INSTRAW has initiated the second phase of the project on the revaluing techniques and methodologies developed in several countries, including Nepal, Canada, Hungary and Finland. Results of these exercises will be consolidated and published as a complementary document to the original monograph.

25. INSTRAW and the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic are currently collaborating in the conduct of a national survey on time use of women and men in the Dominican Republic. This is a follow-up to the pilot survey conducted in 1993 in five small communities in the country. The survey is expected to be concluded in late 1995 and will be followed by training of team leaders and surveyors, thus promoting local capacity-building.

2. Contribution to the second edition of the World's Women Publication and the 1995 Human Development Report

26. At the invitation of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), INSTRAW participated in the preparatory work for the second edition of The World's Women and the 1995 Human Development Report, respectively. In addition to the financial contribution provided by INSTRAW for The World's Women, through which INSTRAW became one of the major sponsors of the publication, the Institute has also contributed substantively. As for the 1995 Human Development Report, INSTRAW's contribution has concentrated on substantive areas, such as valuing women's work. The Institute's participation in the meetings was financed by UNDP.

3. Subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women in Asia

27. In collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, INSTRAW organized and conducted a workshop at Osaka and Tokyo from 8 to 25 March 1994. The workshop was designed as a follow-up to the six national workshops that INSTRAW had conducted in the region since 1985, and focused on a review of the set of indicators recommended by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to countries for the preparation of their national reports for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

28. Within the framework of the workshop, a public session was held where participants were requested to make a general presentation on gender statistics from their respective countries. The session was attended by local experts, researchers and government officials, among others. INSTRAW presented two papers, one of which addressed the importance of gender statistics for policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and the other provided information on the programmes and activities of the Institute in the area of gender statistics.

4. Development of training materials on gender statistics and policy

29. In consultation with UNSTAT and UNIFEM, INSTRAW is working on the development of a training package on gender statistics in development planning, to provide development planners with statistical and other tools to enhance their capacity to relate gender statistics, policy targets and resource allocation. As part of this activity, INSTRAW carried out a mission to Nairobi in October 1994 to review the results of a project in this area being implemented by the Women's Bureau in Kenya, in collaboration with UNSTAT. The mission confirmed the need for and served to orient the further development of the training package, which is expected to be completed in late 1995.

30. Since 1990, INSTRAW has been working at the development of a new conceptual framework for collecting and analysing data on elderly women. The INSTRAW publication entitled "The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators", 5/ aimed at promoting the further development and use of statistics and indicators in order better to understand the situation, problems and constraints that older people are facing in both industrialized and developing societies, was taken note of with appreciation by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/162 of 23 December 1994. It was reprinted in 1995. This work, in which INSTRAW has collaborated with UNSTAT, will be further developed. In its resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the Assembly proclaimed 1999 the International Year of Older Persons.

5. INSTRAW/ECE joint work session on statistics on women

31. The INSTRAW/ECE joint work session on gender statistics was held at Geneva from 6 to 8 March 1995, as approved by the Conference of European Statisticians. This session was the fifth in a series of joint meetings/sessions undertaken since 1985 by INSTRAW and ECE, in collaboration with UNSTAT. It provides the only occasion for intergovernmental consultations and discussions on gender statistics in the region. The importance of maintaining and continuing such a joint activity was recognized in the recommendations of the Regional Platform for Action, adopted by the High-level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Vienna from 17 to 21 November 1994.

32. Another joint INSTRAW/ECE session will be held in 1997/98 to consider the gender dimensions of the following topics:

(a) Economic well-being, career mobility over the course of life, poverty, private and public financial transfers and equal pay for work of equal value;

(b) Caring activities: who cares for whom over the life course, recognition of caring activities;

(c) Unpaid work: developments in the measurement of unpaid work and its inclusion in satellite account systems;

(d) Progress in the statistical measurement of violence and crime.

6. Participation in the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission and regional conferences of statisticians

33. At the invitation of ECE, INSTRAW participated at the forty-second plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, held in Paris from 12 to 16 June 1994. Primarily, INSTRAW's participation was aimed at the further development of regional gender statistics in the work of the Conference, taking into account the needs for assistance in this area of countries with economies in transition.

34. Strong interest was expressed by all participants in further expansion of gender statistics. It was recommended that INSTRAW, in close collaboration with ECE, organize a subregional workshop on gender statistics specifically designed for countries with economies in transition. This proposal will be submitted by ECE to the Conference at its next plenary session.

35. During the period under review, INSTRAW also participated in the following meetings addressing issues relevant to the development of gender statistics: the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 27 February-3 March 1995); the ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Bangkok, 28 November-2 December 1994); the twenty-third General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (Brunswick, Canada, 21-27 August 1994); and the Nihon University International Symposium on Work and Family Life of International Migrant Workers at the University Research Centre, Nihon University (Tokyo, 5-8 December 1994).

C. Women, environment and sustainable development

36. The emergence of sustainability as a development criterion, and new insights on linkages between population growth, environment and development will demand adaptation and new approaches to natural resources management, including the provision of reliable energy services and clean water supply and food security and the extension of social services to attend to the basic needs of more than one billion people living in extreme poverty.

37. These are some of the considerations underlying INSTRAW's cross-sectoral programme on women, environment and sustainable development, which constitutes one of the four main pillars of the Institute's research and training activities. Since 1982, INSTRAW has been carrying out research and training on water supply and sanitation, and the development of new and renewable sources of energy, in the perspective of the status of women and their contribution to socio-economic development.

1. First national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation held in Guyana

38. In cooperation with Red Thread Women's Programme, a non-governmental organization in Guyana, INSTRAW conducted the first national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation at Georgetown from 31 January to 4 February 1994. The seminar was conducted on the basis of a training package

developed jointly by INSTRAW, the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO). A new modular unit on women and waste management was tested during the seminar. The seminar involved 45 participants, including development planners, engineers, trainers and representatives from women's and non-governmental organizations.

2. National training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation held in Ecuador

39. INSTRAW conducted a national training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation at Quito from 27 June to 1 July 1994. The workshop was carried out in collaboration with UNDP, the Ecuadorian Research and Training Institute for Women, INSTRAW's focal point in Ecuador, and the USAID Regional Housing and Urban Development Office in Ecuador, which provided additional funds. The workshop used the Spanish version of INSTRAW's modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation.

40. In order to ensure that the workshop would have a multiplier effect, INSTRAW, in cooperation with the Ecuadorian Research and Training Institute for Women and with the financial support of UNDP, arranged for participants at the workshop to conduct additional workshops aimed at different target groups and community leaders in different provinces of the country. A total of 155 persons (mostly women) from five provinces were trained utilizing INSTRAW's training modules, which were summarized in the local languages.

3. National training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation held in Namibia

41. INSTRAW conducted a national training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation at Windhoek from 20 to 25 November 1994. The seminar was organized in cooperation with Namibia's Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation. It was based on the training package on women, water supply and sanitation referred to in paragraph 39 above. It was attended by 43 participants, including development planners, extensions and community development workers, training officers and representatives from various United Nations bodies and agencies.

42. A modular unit on women and waste management, tested during the workshop, endeavours to promote an integrated approach to environmental sanitation and stresses the importance of the full participation of women in these projects.

43. As follow-up to the national workshop, Namibia's Department of Water Affairs and the Ministry of Community Development expressed interest in the organization of two additional training workshops in the northern and southern regions of Namibia utilizing INSTRAW's training packages.

4. Modular training package on women, environmental management and sustainable development

44. INSTRAW, in cooperation with the International Training Centre of ILO, prepared a training package on women, environmental management and sustainable development. The training package has been developed for senior officials of ministries; development planners; engineers, university professors; and trainers, practitioners and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

45. The major aims of the training package are:

(a) To contribute to an integrated approach in the organization and management of environmental policies and programmes through the integration of women's needs and their participation;

(b) To increase the awareness of the need to involve women in planning, management, implementation and evaluation of environmental programmes and projects.

46. In addition to capacity-building programmes, the training package consists of four parts: women and environmental health; women as agents of change in the development sector; women as managers of the environment; and women, environmental indicators. The package is supplemented by a trainer's guide and colour transparencies to be used simultaneously with the training text and videos.

47. INSTRAW's contribution to sustainable development and environmental management included participation in a meeting of the Collaborative Council Group on Gender Issues (New York, 27 and 28 October 1994); the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 16-27 May 1994); the special session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development (New York, 6-17 February 1995); the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission (New York, 27 February-3 March 1995); and the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance of the Commission (New York, 6-9 March 1995).

48. INSTRAW participated in the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation, at the World Bank, Washington, D.C., on 19 and 20 September 1994, and the fifteenth session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, at Washington D.C., from 21 to 23 October 1994.

49. The Steering Committee focused on inter alia monitoring progress in implementing the follow-up to Agenda 21; requirements for mid-decade reporting in 1995 to the General Assembly on the status of water supply and sanitation and developments since the last report; and the preparation for global conferences.

50. The Subcommittee focused on matters arising from the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources and the second session of the Commission of Sustainable Development; strengthening cooperation and coordination in the field of water resources; cooperation and coordination with organizations outside the system; monitoring and assessment of the freshwater resources of the world;

World Water Day; other issues requiring system-wide cooperation; Global Environment Facility; and other matters.

D. Special project on the development of communications materials for women and development

51. A project entitled "Development of Communications Materials for Women and Development" was initiated in 1991 with funds provided by the Government of Italy and carried out in collaboration with the Italian Association for Women in Development. It was completed in 1995.

52. The second phase of the project, completed during the period under review, involved actions aimed at:

(a) Enhancing the image of women in the mass media;

(b) Disseminating the research findings on the situation of women employed in the media;

(c) Enhancing the communications skills of women's non-governmental organizations;

(d) Bridging the gap between women's non-governmental organizations and mass media professionals;

(e) Sensitizing students on the gender bias in the media.

53. INSTRAW has prepared a synthesis paper of the project, which will be published in-house.

54. Outputs from individual countries participating in the project included the following:

(a) The Centre for Women's Studies, Argentina, a national women's non-governmental organization selected to carry out this project in Argentina, developed an ambitious plan of action called "Satelite Eva" which consisted of: the production in Spanish of five sets of documents for the press on issues such as human rights, political participation, reproductive rights and the media; a multimedia exhibit on women and communications; a training seminar presenting the major theoretical issues related to communications and women and development and aimed at developing guidelines for evaluating the image of women in television and advertising; workshops conducted with officials from the women's programme of the Ministry of Education; and the production of a book entitled Mujeres Comunicando Argentina: Inventario de Materiales de Comunicación Alternativos, which is an inventory of alternative media outputs on and by women;

(b) Cine Mujer in Colombia produced a 30-minute pilot television programme on prostitution in Colombia, containing testimonies, interviews and panel discussions moderated by a renowned woman reporter. The pilot programme was presented on Colombia regional television. An inventory of communications

materials on women and development available in Colombia was published in Spanish;

(c) The Centre for Women's Research and Action in the Dominican Republic produced a photographic portfolio illustrating various aspects of women in development and guidelines for group discussions on issues related to women and the media. An educational kit was produced, containing six booklets on topics such as: economy, sustainable development, health, legislation, international organizations and events, and communications. A book synthesizing the results of the diagnostic research conducted in the first phase of the project was published in Spanish.

E. Activities relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women

1. Preparatory conferences

55. INSTRAW participated in all five regional preparatory conferences to the Fourth World Conference on Women organized by the United Nations regional commissions in 1994. These included: the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held at Jakarta, from 7 to 14 June 1994, organized by ESCAP; the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 26 to 30 September 1994, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the High-Level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, held at Vienna from 17 to 21 October 1994, organized by ECE; the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Amman, from 6 to 10 November 1994, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); and the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, held at Dakar from 16 to 23 November 1994, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). At each regional preparatory conference, INSTRAW presented a paper emphasizing areas where research, training, communication and information dissemination would be crucial for the implementation of the regional plans of actions and the platform for action to be adopted at the Conference. The Institute also called for stronger commitments to research on gender issues and expressed interest in continuing its collaboration and coordination with the regional commissions.

2. Inter-agency meetings

56. As part of its effort to disseminate its analysis and research findings is sharing them with all the concerned agencies within and outside the United Nations system, INSTRAW attended on a regular basis and provided substantive inputs to all ad hoc inter-agency meetings, on women organized under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, organized by the Secretary-General of the Conference. INSTRAW prepared position papers for these meetings on the role of research and training for the advancement of women.

57. Other inter-agency meetings attended by INSTRAW included the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Rural Development, held in Rome from 11 to 13 May 1994.

3. Panels

58. INSTRAW organized the following panels for the NGO Forum on Women and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Time Use Statistics and Recognition of Women's and Men's Contribution, 31 August 1995, Huairou

59. The objectives of this panel were: (a) to identify further needs and data gaps in making women visible in statistics; (b) to discuss measures and techniques for capturing, measuring and valuing women's productive contributions to all aspects and sectors of development; and (c) to reflect better these contributions in national accounts and economic statistics. The panel was attended by experts in the field of statistics, development planners and scholars on gender issues, many of whom were in Beijing attending the fiftieth session of the International Statistical Institute. This panel was jointly organized by INSTRAW and UNSTAT, in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Agency.

60. At this panel, three new publications were presented, entitled "Time Use of Women in Europe and North America", joint study with ECE; "The Migration of Women, Methodological Issues in the Measurement and Analysis of Internal and International Migration"; and "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output".

Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation, 2 September 1995, Huairou

61. INSTRAW organized jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a panel on Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation. The panel focused on the roles and problems of women in water supply and environmental sanitation projects, programmes and policies and overall water resource management in the various regions. Strategies in water and environmental sanitation to the year 2000 were discussed.

Economic and Political Empowerment of Women, 4 September 1995, Huairou

62. This panel focused on the complementarity of the two prongs of the empowerment of women - economic and political - from the perspective that empowerment requires a holistic approach. Emphasis was placed on women's access to financial resources and women's participation in policy and decision-making. The publication entitled "Credit for women, why is it so important?" (see para. 16 above) was launched.

Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach, 7 September 1995, Huairou

63. This panel provided an opportunity for mass media professionals and producers of women's alternative media to design new strategies for the use of media in sustainable development with regard to gender equity.

64. During the panel, INSTRAW's experiences in its project conducted in three Latin American countries on "Development of Communications Materials for Women in Development", and the INSTRAW booklet entitled "Content-Discontent: Towards a Fair Portrayal of Women in the Media", were presented.

4. Special events at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing

65. INSTRAW organized two special event panels for the official delegations to the Conference on 12 September 1995:

(a) The Women and Natural Resources Management panel focused on ways to enhance the role and participation of women in natural resources management. Topics discussed included: women and access to resources; disaster preparedness; women and new and renewable sources of energy; women and water supply; and women and environmental sciences;

(b) The Economic and Political Empowerment of Women and the Need for Gender Statistics panel focused on the economic and political empowerment of women as prerequisites for the full inclusion of women in the development process and the role of statistics and indicators.

5. Translation of publication

66. INSTRAW 1995, a general informative book about the Institute and its work, was translated into Chinese for distribution during the Conference, in compliance with a recommendation of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees. This is the first time material has been translated into Chinese. Translation into other official languages will depend on additional financial resources.

F. Activities for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

67. As part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, INSTRAW initiated in 1995 a series of colloquiums focusing on international days or on topics currently on the development agenda. The purpose of these colloquiums is to provide a forum for local organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, and research institutes, to discuss the role and participation of women in selected development issues, which can later be brought to the attention of authorities for appropriate action.

68. The first colloquium, held in June, focused on World Environment Day (5 June) and the International Day to Combat Drought and Desertification (17 June). The second, held in August, dealt with women's image in publicity, an issue which will be on the agenda of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 1996. The next colloquium will centre on the International Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters (11 October), of which the theme is "Women and children: priority in disaster mitigation". The papers presented on these occasions and the main recommendations resulting from the discussions will be part of a special commemorative publication.

69. INSTRAW is hosting a multimedia interactive exhibit as part of the global programme for the fiftieth anniversary. This exhibit was launched in San Francisco and has also been shown in cities around the world where there is a major United Nations presence. The Institute has received support from the UNDP office in Santo Domingo in hosting the exhibit, which will run for a period of six months to one year. Contents of the exhibit include a compact disc interactive (CDI) story entitled "Countdown to the Future", consisting of 13 modules with video footage of general information about the United Nations and its work and a video entitled "The World We Share".

G. Information, documentation and communication

70. The objectives of this programme are: to compile and process information on the role of women in development; to strengthen the channels for dissemination of information on women in development and on activities carried out by INSTRAW; to reinforce networking and liaison activities with organizations and institutions with interest in women's issues; and to develop appropriate communication support in order to facilitate access to information and communications systems by other bodies and organizations in the United Nations system and wherever possible to explore and develop new and more effective means of communicating information and ideas about the inclusion and the empowerment of women.

71. During the period under review, the internal printing facility of the Institute maintained its pace of production. Sixteen separate publications, including research studies, reports of training seminars, various Board documents (in three languages), four issues of INSTRAW News (in three languages) and a major public information publication, as well as flyers and brochures (three languages) were printed in-house (see annex to the present report). In addition, 15 forms or types of stationery were also printed.

72. As for the production of public information materials, there were two issues of INSTRAW News during 1994. The first dealt with women and the family and was part of the Institute's contribution to the International Year of the Family. The second covered the topic of time-use and drew on the INSTRAW research project on this topic. A special issue focusing on the World Summit for Social Development was printed in the first quarter of 1995 and presented at the Summit. A second issue was printed in 1995 and centred on future directions of research and training after the Fourth World Conference on Women.

73. During 1995, INSTRAW began work on a CD-ROM disk which will contain the full texts of its core library in English. Utilizing this new form of technology should broaden the outreach of the Institute's publications. The project was widely promoted at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

74. INSTRAW participated in an ad hoc meeting of the Joint United Nations Information Committee on 15 and 16 February 1994 at which it was decided that a joint travelling exhibition would be prepared as part of a system-wide information programme for the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. INSTRAW is recognized as one of the sponsors of this exhibit. The exhibition was inaugurated in the main lobby of the United Nations Secretariat building in New York and presented to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) and later to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing).

75. The Institute also participated, together with other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, in the International Information Fair, organized by the Department of Public Information and held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

IV. THE INSTITUTE'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

76. By its nature, mandate, statute and operating principles, INSTRAW relies on networking in innovative ways and implements its work through cooperative arrangements with United Nations programmes, organizations and agencies and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups. An important element in the Institute's methods of work is its network of focal points and correspondents at the national level. There are now 40 INSTRAW focal points in countries all over the world. Several activities such as the organization of seminars and meetings have been implemented in collaboration with these focal points.

77. The Institute considers that networking and mainstreaming have been instrumental in enabling it to carry out its mandate in research, training and information on gender, women and development in an innovative and multidisciplinary manner; to increase the scope of its operations; to optimize the use of its limited financial resources; and to attain greater outreach and impact.

78. Networking and mainstreaming have been and will continue to be the main pivots of the Institute's mode of operation. The Institute will continue in its efforts to seek new ways and strategies to strengthen its mode of operation.

V. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INSTITUTE

79. INSTRAW is funded solely from voluntary contributions. Since its establishment, the Institute has received pledges from 72 Member States, both developed and developing countries. Voluntary contributions received by the United Nations Trust Fund for INSTRAW for the biennium 1994-1995 as of the date of the present report, including specific contributions for special projects and programmes, amount to $2,180,273. This amount is expected to increase before the end of the biennium through additional contributions to be received from those donor countries that have pledged and have not yet paid their contributions.

80. The Institute wishes to express its appreciation to those Member States that have steadily supported INSTRAW by their contributions to the Trust Fund since its inception.

81. Furthermore, in keeping with the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning autonomous institutes of the United Nations, INSTRAW has attained a financial reserve of $1 million, which should enable the Institute to meet any shortfall in expected pledges, thus ensuring continuity in its work.

82. INSTRAW is responsible for providing administrative support to all its programmes. This includes financial management and budgetary controls, monitoring of financial commitments, recruitment and personnel administration, procurement and other activities, within the delegation of authority granted by the Secretary-General. Despite the constraints faced by external circumstances and insufficiency of qualified Professional staff, INSTRAW has successfully carried out the biennium programme and has a sound financial base.

83. The need for sustained funds that would permit the Institute to carry out its mandate of independent research, the results of which would feed into policy formulation and coordination on the one hand and operational activities on the other, cannot be underestimated. If the Institute is to continue to be effective in its mandate of research, training and information on issues related to women and development, the financial commitment of Member States to the Trust Fund must be ensured.

VI. CONCLUSION

84. INSTRAW's activities are an integral part of the overall efforts of the United Nations to combat poverty, which has a strong negative impact on the lives of women world wide.

85. The World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women reinforced the importance and urgency of the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and highlighted the linkage between the empowerment of women and the progress of women as a whole. A reinforced commitment to research and training is fundamental to further progress towards sustainable socio-economic development and advancement of women.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ For the statute of the Institute, see A/39/511, annex.

3/ R. Mehta et al., 1995. INSTRAW/SER.B/51.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.III.C.3.

5/ INSTRAW/SER.B/44.

ANNEX

Publications and public information material printed by the Institute, 1994-1995

Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Gambia. Report of the National Training Workshop, Kombo Beach, 8-16 May 1991. 160 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1994.

Women, Water Supply and Sanitation. Training Seminar, Georgetown, Guyana, 31 January-4 February 1994. 85 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW December 1994.

Women, Water Supply and Sanitation. National Training Seminar, Windhoek, Namibia, 20-25 November 1994. 59 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW March 1995.

Training Users and Producers in Statistics on Gender Issues in the South Pacific. Seminar, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 30 November-3 December 1992. 120 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW May 1995.

The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators. Joint publication of INSTRAW and the Statistics Division of the United Nations. 80 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1993. Reprinted 1995.

The Migration of Women: Methodological Issues in the Measurement and Analysis of Internal and International Migration. 120 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1994. ISBN No. 92-1-127005-7, Sales No. E.95.III.C.1.

Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output. 124 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995. ISBN No. 92-1-127007-3. Sales No. E.95.III.C.3.

Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, Modular Training Package. INSTRAW in cooperation with the International Training Centre of ILO, April 1995. ISBN No. 92-1-127006-5. Sales No. E.95.III.C.2.

Content-Discontent: Towards a Fair Portrayal of Women in the Media. 60 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

Gender Concepts in Development Planning, Basic Approach. 35 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

Credit for Women: Why is it so important? 119 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW-ICRW 1995.

INSTRAW 1995. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

INSTRAW News No. 20, first semester 1994. Women and the Family.

INSTRAW News No. 21, second semester 1994. Women and Time.

INSTRAW News No. 22, first semester 1995. The Social Summit: A Gender Perspective.

INSTRAW News No. 23, second semester 1995. Women and Development: Future Directions.

Flyer: 1440 Minutes in a Day: Knowing how a woman spends each one reveals how much of her productive contribution is concealed. Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: INSTRAW and its Water Programme in Africa, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: Women and Energy, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: What do we know about women's migration and the plight of women migrants?, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: Communications Panel - "Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach", NGO Forum on Women, 7 September 1995.

Brochure: INSTRAW Workshop/Panels, NGO Forum on Women, Beijing, September 1995.

Brochure: INSTRAW Special Event Panels, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995.

Brochure: Women and the UN, 1945-1995. INSTRAW and UNIFEM, New York, 1995.

Poster: Keys to Gender Equality. INSTRAW/Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, New York, 1995.

Poster: Women: United for a Better World, Fourth World Conference on Women, INSTRAW, 1995.

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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the "Summary of ongoing activities and brief identification of potential developments of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research", which was prepared upon the request of the Board of Trustees of the Institute.

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Annex

Summary of Ongoing Activities and Brief Identification of Potential Developments of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

1. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has now completed its restructuring process and is entering a phase of consolidation. Programmes are developing and gaining credibility, and the financial situation, though still fragile, is more stable. In view of this progress, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR requested the Acting Executive Director to submit a brief summary of the present status of programmes. The report was reviewed by the Board of Trustees during its session in September 1995, and is presented for the consideration of Member States prior to the debates at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

2. UNITAR provides training for skills-building, policy-setting, information-gathering, and awareness-raising, and for elaborating strategy. The multiplicity of its work, owing to a large extent to its institutional mandate and to the imperatives of financial realities, lead the Institute to undertake more than just training, in the traditional sense of the word, implying a need for reconsideration of the scope of its activities. Some institutional matters too, need particular attention, such as the question of the extent and modalities of the Institute's autonomy, which constitutes the foundation of its intellectual freedom and operational efficiency.

3. The present paper is divided into three general segments: the first provides an overview of current or planned programmes; the second deals with cooperation with United Nations funds and programmes; and the third highlights briefly the current personnel and administrative situation.

I. CURRENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DIRECTION FOR PROGRAMMES

A. Introduction

4. Training programmes in the two areas of multilateral diplomacy and related disciplines on the one hand, and economic and social development on the other, have been continuously expanding and evolving throughout the restructuring process. As the number and range of activities have increased, so has the need to better register and document methodology and end-results. There is a pressing need to have the capacity to design and develop appropriate training materials, and to excel in the conduct of problem-clarification exercises with key players.

5. Currently UNITAR works in an atmosphere of dynamism, often creating different formats for its programmes. One successful example is that of the fellowship programmes, long-term (10 year perspective or more), regular, and geographically fixed events, providing a reliable platform for Member States and for the United Nations, and allowing for the continuous fine-tuning and

improvement of the curricula. The more regular training programmes are mid-term (3-5 year perspectives), intensive and geographically mobile, lighter in infrastructure, region-specific, proactive in approach, aiming to sensitize or train key target groups, prepare other trainers, and design innovative training material and guidelines.

International affairs management training

B. Multilateral diplomacy training

6. The multilateral diplomacy programme is a major programme of the Institute. Activities are conducted in Geneva, New York and Vienna, and managed with minimal operating costs. The activities are considered highly useful, mainly by the diplomatic missions, but piecemeal resources make the establishment of a comprehensive programme difficult. Steps are being taken to strengthen the capacity of the programme through training documents and packages so as to better capitalize on the past work and existing expertise, to have translations into different languages, and to improve the design and delivery of the programmes. The range of the activities could also be expanded to training in the management of the public sector, for example.

7. In the same field, the programme of correspondence instruction in peace-keeping operations and the production of a video training package on peace-keeping constitute the first steps in using different media for the dissemination of training, and should, over the next year, be analysed in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness. These new training packages could be used more often within other UNITAR programmes.

C. Fellowship programmes

8. As regards fellowships, the following are the areas in which these are currently being conducted or prepared.

Fellowship in international law

9. The needs in this domain are ongoing and vast, particularly for numerous developing countries and economies in transition. The programme fits the bridging nature of UNITAR, requiring a grasp of both policy and academic developments. It is a standard UNITAR fellowship, and a favourite programme with developing countries, now gradually opening to developed and industrialized nations as well. Its main shortcoming is the level of funding to provide more fellowships; it receives over 150 nominations each year, while funds are available for only 15-18 trainees.

10. A priority for the programme would be to seek funds for the development of a training package, based on material and methods applied within the sessions, which could make a considerable contribution to the wider dissemination of international law. The fellowship programme could also be complemented by regional refresher courses. In addition to a global approach in the general programme, these courses would focus on international legal issues and problems of specific regions.

Fellowship in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking

11. The field is expanding and the needs, both within the United Nations and among Member States, are immense. The programme has a very high profile, owing to the combination of its substantive quality, excellent location and logistical arrangements, and innovative approach. It caters to high-level United Nations staff and government and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, has become a reference in its field, and beyond the skills-building mandate, is also a forum for discussions. It has exemplary merit within UNITAR, in terms of focus and conduct, and should be looked at carefully as a model for future programmes.

12. The areas in which the needs seem to be pressing, and where the Institute is currently negotiating for funds are as follows.

Fellowship in multilateral diplomacy and international affairs

13. The fellowship is intended to offer a practice-oriented curriculum aiming at upgrading the skills of diplomats and negotiators. It should give participants access to a comprehensive subject knowledge of international political relations, intergovernmental institutions, international law enforcement, multilateral diplomacy, foreign policy and practical diplomatic skills.

Fellowship in international environmental law

14. A fellowship programme was organized, in 1994 and 1995, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activities Centre (ELI/PAC), following the model of the United Nations/UNITAR international law programme. UNITAR tries to find the resources to provide greater specific input within the existing framework, such as the correspondence instructions in the field of environmental law, as is being currently discussed with the Executive Director of UNEP and her colleagues in Nairobi and Geneva. The training needs in this field are pressing, and proposals for similar fellowships in French-speaking countries and/or for Eastern European countries are being pursued.

Training programmes in economic and social development

D. External debt and financial management

15. The programme, initiated in 1987, is successful owing to the expanding field and its evolving nature. It has widened its range substantively to include training in issues related to the economics of financial management, debt and financial negotiations, and international trade. Geographically, the programme has intense activities in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Central Asian republics and the Middle East. Finally, the introduction and development of distance learning training packages in debt and financial management and negotiation are under way. In the coming years, the programme will focus on the following areas:

(a) The legal aspects of external debt, economic and financial management:

Aims to develop awareness of the importance of the legal aspects of international debt and financial management, and the role of lawyers in the borrowing process. It would impart specific knowledge of such topics as national loan and guarantee approval procedures; conditions precedent to loan agreements; dispute resolution; arbitration; export credit practice; syndication; debt rescheduling through the Paris and London Clubs; sovereign borrowing and the principles of budgetary law; debt conversions and buy-backs; debt negotiations; and the role of lawyers in debt negotiations.

(b) Legal aspects of international debt, economic and financial relations:

Aims to provide the knowledge, skills and technical support required for effective integration into the global economy, allowing participants to better negotiate the economic, technical and legal details of trade and management contracts.

(c) Legal aspects of international debt, economic and financial negotiation (theory and practice):

Aims to convey to participants the importance of careful and well-planned preparation and team work in the negotiation process. The objectives of the seminars are to focus on the legal elements in the overall process of international loan negotiations and to deal, in particular, with those clauses in a loan agreement which are most relevant to the borrower and in which improvements can be sought in favour of the borrower.

E. Disaster relief management

16. Since its inception in 1991, the programme has conducted workshops for decision makers in seven different Sahelian countries. It targets a rather broad spectrum of actors, from planners and decision makers to grass-roots operations officials. It has been flexible in its implementation, and had different results: in some cases, all the steps of the training cycle have been completed, while in other countries the programme has hardly started. In certain countries, the impact has been concrete: legislative action (generally presidential decrees) had been taken for disaster preparedness and mitigation, and in one particular case, the Government stated that in 1994, for the first time, no foreign assistance was needed in dealing with a flood.

17. Several United Nations bodies are now considering similar programmes in the same regions. Subsequently, UNITAR will have to propose to maintain the lead in the training area under the umbrella of a larger institutional framework, such as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, for example.

F. Environmental and natural resource management

18. Environment and development - Agenda 21, sustainable development, implementation of international conventions and agreements, environment/trade-related issues, environmental security, urban management, human settlements and population sustainability, all remain issues of great concern and are bound to continue well into the twenty-first century. Undoubtedly, one of the most pertinent niches for UNITAR remains the servicing, under the overall work of lead agencies, of the various chapters of Agenda 21 and the various related conventions and agreements through training. On the basis of its mandate, the significant expertise it has already gained in a number of related fields, its multidisciplinary approach, and the universal nature of the issue, UNITAR should continue its involvement in the area.

Training in the use and application of environmental information systems (EIS), including spatial database management, modelling techniques and telecommunications

19. This can be considered a successful example of the evolutionary nature of UNITAR programmes. A pioneer programme in 1986, it was initially a lengthy (six months), in-depth, highly technical training programme, geared mainly to scientists working with geographic information systems (GIS), and with an emphasis on building individual capabilities. Today, following chapter 40 of Agenda 21, the programme focuses on building institutional capacities to meet the needs of specific environmental objectives, and its main strength can be exemplified as (a) convener (agenda-setter) of the main international forum on GIS and environmental information systems (EIS) technologies in Africa (AFRICAGIS), (b) provider of innovative, low-cost, application-oriented and stand-alone training material (GIS workbook series), (c) expert in the development and design of programmes integrating the technologies available in this field to a range of diverse applications, set within international or national policy frameworks such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or the pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs). At present, UNITAR is seeking core funds to be able to maintain and provide this expertise in the context of several different environmental projects.

Training in the implementation at the national level of Agenda 21, international environmental conventions and agreements

20. In the area of chemicals management, chapter 19 of Agenda 21 finds training responses in a series of UNITAR programmes or initiatives, which have undergone a significant evolution over the past five years. Starting as a small programme implemented jointly with UNEP to assist countries to implement the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for chemicals in international trade, these programmes now increasingly address a wider spectrum of chemicals management topics, relevant to sound industrial development at both national and regional levels.

21. Two additional programmes have recently been initiated which are closely linked to the international and national process to implement chapter 19 and which promise to attract significant support and funding from Member States. The first aims to facilitate the establishment of pollutant release and transfer

registers in developing and industrializing countries, which promotes pollution prevention through establishing national systems to register pollutant releases and transfers. Working closely with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and several international organizations, UNITAR initiated a series of pilot studies in the Czech Republic, Egypt and Mexico to assess the feasibility of introducing the registers as an innovative environmental management tool.

22. The second programme aims to assist countries in preparing national profiles to assess the national infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals, so as to document and identify strengths and weaknesses of their national chemical management schemes, as the basis for implementing national action programmes. The UNITAR programme is organized under the umbrella of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, a collaborative programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and OECD, and it is linked to the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety. Pilot studies have been initiated in the Czech Republic, Guinea, Mexico and Zambia.

23. Finally a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes and their Disposal to develop and implement, resources permitting, a training programme in the area of hazardous waste management, starting in 1995.

24. As regards the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNITAR is working on a joint programme, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in close connection with the secretariat of the Convention. The joint programme, CC:TRAIN, has opened opportunities and challenges for the Institute. The programme is ending its pilot phase in three countries, and is poised to start its second phase in 15 other countries. Its objectives are: training of the key stakeholders in understanding the requirements and setting up the processes for the implementation of the Convention at the national level, and provision of substantive training material covering the Convention and providing the framework for wide-reaching in-country training by a country team set up and trained through the programme.

25. The importance of the international conventions on the environment is quite considerable and UNITAR will attempt to increase its services to these conventions through training programmes. The reasons for the involvement of UNITAR are multiple: first, international environment conventions are of great complexity owing to their scientific, economic, political and social components, and hence require the type of multidisciplinary approach that UNITAR has adopted; second, the secretariats set up to service these conventions are often small and do not have a capacity-building mandate; finally, UNITAR is a neutral actor in the often difficult processes pertaining to the negotiation and implementation of such conventions.

Research and other activities related to training

G. Research

26. UNITAR continues to be engaged in a number of research-related activities that enhance the effectiveness and capacity of its training programmes. These activities include the hosting of high-level conferences, the application for and competition in various research grants, and the publication of papers and books.

27. Involvement in practical research is essential if UNITAR is to remain on the cutting edge of meeting the United Nations training needs. The Institute's experience has demonstrated that high-level and effective training requires a substantive knowledge of the subject-matter and awareness of key issues by the organizers. Through the conduct of carefully selected conferences, the dissemination of UNITAR conference proceedings, the presentation of papers in international forums, as well as the publication of relevant research, UNITAR can greatly enhance its ability to disseminate information of relevance to the United Nations system more widely. These activities are essential to obtain funds for the Institute, to raise its profile, and to enhance the relevance of its programmes for the international community at large.

28. The following are some examples of research activities with direct relevance to UNITAR training programmes.

(a) A research grant awarded by the Ford Foundation for a project designed to study the full range of the peace and security system of the United Nations, and to consider how the United Nations might improve its practices in preventing and resolving disputes. Results from the research are already being incorporated in the fellowship programme in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking;

(b) MEDALUS: a research project funded by the European Union has been under way to provide an innovative methodological framework for assessing development policy in the context of sustainable development. Based on this research, a training programme has been developed to strengthen national and regional capacity for strategic development policy analysis, focusing on tools and techniques that incorporate the local cultural and social context for evaluating the socio-economic driving forces of structural change. Simple risk analysis techniques give the training a practical and intuitive basis to address the complex task of development policy formulation and evaluation. This training programme has recently been implemented in the context of the integrated coastal areas management programmes of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP.

29. As UNITAR training and research activities increase, the scientific and technical staff of the Institute are frequently being invited to present papers in academic symposia or intergovernmental conferences, which in turn can improve the image of UNITAR.

H. Contribution to coordinated follow-up to international conferences

30. In the recent past, UNITAR has been drafting proposals and seeking funds in this domain so as (a) to develop a set of programmes that help countries respond to the recommendations of different summits, both as a follow-up and prospectively, mainly on population and migration, the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo Summit of 1994) and cities and human settlements, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul Summit of 1996) and (b) to enhance the methods of providing assistance to countries in implementing various chapters of Agenda 21 through sectoral national profiles, as well as through the design of a comprehensive framework for reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development. This specific point was raised in the discussion on UNITAR during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

I. Conferences

31. Despite limited human and financial resources, when possible and necessary UNITAR uses this format for its undertakings. In all cases conferences feed directly into training activities. The following are some examples.

1. Institute of Policy Studies/UNITAR Conference on Peace-keeping

32. Organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) of Singapore and UNITAR, the annual conference has a debriefing and lesson-learning format, and brings together individuals directly involved in peace-keeping operations, researchers and academics, government officials and appropriate United Nations divisions. The output is in the form of "recommendations" from the conference (the results of the first conference in 1994, on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is being published in book form) was also submitted to the Secretary-General and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of the United Nations. Information from the conference is incorporated in the UNITAR programme of correspondence instruction on peace-keeping.

2. AFRICAGIS

33. Organized biannually by the UNITAR EIS programme and its partners (the Observatory of Sahara and Sahel), the conference is the major GIS event in Africa, providing a comprehensive range of panels on various key topics and allowing for the large-scale dissemination of information on programmes and research conducted by institutions and scientists in Africa and elsewhere. The results of the conference are of direct relevance to the EIS training programmes of UNITAR.

3. UNITAR Conference on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands

34. Organized triannually by the UNITAR Centre on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands, the conference is an important event in its field, bringing together over 400 key experts and resulting in the publication of a substantial document (conference proceedings) at each session.

4. International Court of Justice/UNITAR colloquium

35. The colloquium will be held in April 1996, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It will focus on the past, present and future work of the Court, and on how the Court might be most effective in assisting Member States with the peaceful resolution of their disputes. Information from the colloquium will be incorporated in the fellowship programme in international law.

J. Publications

1. Books

36. The following are examples of books and publications produced by the Institute:

Shabtai Rosenne, The International Court of Justice (reprint);

The United Nations System at Geneva: Scope and Practices of Multilateral Diplomacy (being revised for reprint) and The International Man: An Endangered Species (published in 1995), are relevant to all training activities in the area of international affairs. Currently in print are two other documents stemming directly from the UNITAR training and research activities: United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia: Debriefing and Lessons and The United Nations as a Dispute Settlement System: Improving Mechanisms for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflict.

2. Training material

37. A cornerstone of UNITAR activities is the design and publication of training material, which should both support and disseminate the outcome of the programmes, and be the basis for future development.

Information systems

38. The educational and training series entitled Explorations in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology consists of a set of workbooks designed for self-exploration of analytical techniques and major application areas in information systems technology for environmental managers. Over 3,500 copies have been distributed since 1991. They are sold to institutions of industrialized countries and generally donated free of charge to managers/scientists in developing countries.

Internet Guide to Africa: A directory of electronic mail and the Internet being compiled to help overcome the difficulties encountered by users wishing to communicate or share data with members of the African scientific and technical community.

Information Systems Awareness Brochure: A brochure meant to increase the awareness of these techniques of individuals and organizations playing key roles in development projects related to the environment, regional planning, and the management of natural resources, and the technical advantages of integrated environmental information systems for the creation of decision-making tools.

GIS Software Guide: Together with the Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS) and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) of UNDP, UNITAR has produced a GIS software guide designed to assist those launching GIS projects. The guide will help users select the most appropriate software based on their needs (scale, applications, etc.), aims, hardware, and staffing resources.

39. It is essential to note that the long-term commitment of UNITAR to this work has established contacts and credibility for the Institute to such an extent that significant donations of software, and generous provisions for the supply of expertise in information systems training and research (from public and private sectors) have been forthcoming.

Chemicals and waste management

40. Guidance documents are the mainstay of country-based programmes which involve all concerned parties within and outside government to strengthen the strategic aspects of national chemicals management schemes. Examples of published documents include the following:

Guidelines for the Implementation of the UNITAR PRTR Pilot Studies

Preparing a National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for Management of Chemicals - A Guidance Document

41. Self-standing Training Modules - crucial for regional and national seminars. They provide in-depth guidance and analysis of specialized aspects of chemicals management, for example, on risk management. One such example is entitled "Strengthening capabilities in countries to make prior informed consent import decisions".

42. Supportive documentation - provides important background information on specific aspects of chemicals. The documents are meant to be used both during training events and on the job as general information sources. Examples of documents published to date include:

Resource Guide on Training and Technical Assistance Activities of International Organizations Related to the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals

Country Information Sheets on the Sound Management of Chemicals in Developing Countries

Guide to Scientific Legal and Technical Literature for Chemical Management and Safety

Guide to Databases for Chemical Management and Safety

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

43. The CC:TRAIN Workshop Package contains six modules on the global dimensions of climate change and the Convention. It includes modules on the science and impacts of global climate change, the financial support under the Convention, the methodologies used in climate change analysis, and CC:TRAIN. The package also includes a 20-minute video on the science and impacts of climate change as well as a guide on using the package and in organizing workshops.

44. The package can be used independently by the project staff, country team members and others within a country to communicate generic information on the issue of climate change and the Convention.

Debt, economic and financial management

45. Training Package - Debt and Financial Management (The Legal Aspects): UNITAR has developed a user-friendly distance learning training package on debt and financial management. The objective is to have a training package which can be introduced into universities and training institutions in developing countries as part of the curriculum.

46. Case Study Workshop Package - Negotiation Theory and Practice: Another stand-alone workshop package entitled "Case study workshop package: negotiation and drafting of loan agreements" has recently been developed by UNITAR. The package materials include: an introduction; sample workshop agenda(s); extensive teacher's training notes/tutor support; simulation/role playing exercises and interactive parts; teaching aides/visual materials/charts/ transparencies; supporting documentation and materials for reading by students/instructors and for reference; hand-outs for students; bibliography of references.

47. Document series: As a step towards the dissemination of information, UNITAR started a document series pertaining to important and relevant issues on debt and financial management. To date, the following documents have been published: Debt restructuring (February 1992); Recommendations of Participants (March 1992); Good Debt Management Pays (January 1993); Negotiations in Debt and Financial Management (December 1994).

II. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

48. The Board of Trustees of UNITAR, as well as the Second Committee of the General Assembly, have continuously emphasized the necessity to develop and strengthen inter-agency cooperation. This issue has been dealt with following two different approaches.

A. Meetings of directors of United Nations institutes for training, research and planning

49. UNITAR is resuming a past tradition of holding an annual meeting of directors of institutes of the United Nations system. This two-day event aims more specifically at the exchange of views and experiences of certain selected themes, such as training in the fields of economic and social development. Participants in the 1995 meeting identified a number of ways to enhance the relevance and influence of training and research activities in addressing the major challenges of international relations, as well as the obstacles that still needed to be overcome in this context.

50. In a concrete and pragmatic spirit, the directors discussed possible ways for the institutes represented to make a real contribution in terms of research and training on major international conferences, and special emphasis was put on the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the "City Summit".

B. Servicing United Nations programmes and funds

51. Recent experience in servicing United Nations bodies in the field of training and research directly related to training seems quite positive, whether in the capacity of an executing or an implementing agency, or in that of a fully fledged partner in multilateral/bilateral development cooperation programmes. The underlying "philosophy" of such an approach is simple. As a training institute of the United Nations, UNITAR does not request any special privileges but rather seeks to be considered for programmes in the fields where it has proven expertise and a solid track record. The recruitment of UNITAR could be advantageous in financial terms and could also help build or increase internal expertise within the United Nations Organization.

52. More systematic and comprehensive attempts at cooperation have been made towards the various United Nations programmes and funds - the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services - for instance. The current financial climate is, of course, not very favourable since these organizations themselves are facing financial restrictions. Operations are nevertheless ongoing and UNITAR could certainly bring its contribution to certain activities of the above bodies. Some encouraging steps have already been taken.

53. Finally, UNITAR has been following up on the decisions and resolutions of some major international conferences with training projects and research on

training. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the "City Summit" seems to offer a good opportunity. Indeed, human settlements, in particular in a megalopolis, form the microcosm and setting for most human issues dealt with (or to be dealt with) by recent or upcoming intergovernmental conferences: on the environment, population, social development, women's issues, etc. The coordination of such meetings is obviously not an easy task. Each conference seems to produce its own plan of action, and harmonizing different sectoral priorities can be difficult. UNITAR would certainly have some comparative advantages in dealing with the matter, following a coordinated approach, as was strongly requested at the last session of the Economic and Social Council.

III. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

54. Over the last two years, UNITAR has overcome a period of great uncertainty in terms of its financial and institutional stability. Now the Institute has the possibility to enhance its intellectual relevance, further strengthen the credibility of its training activities, and ensure that these, as well as the financial means of accomplishing them, reach a certain critical mass.

55. During the present consolidation phase, the principle of UNITAR autonomy deserves to be reaffirmed, since it is this particular status that lends the Institute, under United Nations rules and regulations, the necessary administrative and operational flexibility and efficiency for the conduct of its activities.

56. The level of job security for the Professional staff varies from programme to programme, but rarely exceeds a year. The situation is quite similar for the General Service staff. The most difficult case relates to research interns or consultants, some of whom have worked with the Institute for long periods, and who have few benefits. While a highly fluctuating environment was initially beneficial to the instigation of a number of programmes, as the size and visibility of programmes and UNITAR itself increase, it can have a negative impact on their overall quality and coherence.

57. A sound future for the Institute is directly linked to the quality and number of the staff whose salary costs are covered by the General Fund. UNITAR can function as one of the main and most suitable providers of non-partisan training programmes, addressing well-identified and focused needs, only if a minimum core staff is covered by voluntary, non-earmarked contributions to the General Fund. As long as this funding cannot be solicited from the United Nations regular budget, a coherent and efficient funding strategy must be designed to ensure a minimum of predictability and sustainability. Such a secure financial basis for the Institute would also consolidate existing programmes and undoubtedly accelerate their development, thus enabling UNITAR to respond more promptly to requests for training, only one fourth of which are currently followed upon. In areas where UNITAR enjoys a strong comparative advantage, a reinforced General Fund would have a multiplying effect, since the programme officers or managers could dedicate all their time to increasing the scope and range of their programmes, improving methodologies and materials, and raising funds for concrete operational activities.

58. Finally, in order to enhance and extend the quality and number of training services provided to Member States, and following various General Assembly resolutions, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR has decided that the Institute will open, without any further delay, a liaison office in New York.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

59. The mandate of UNITAR is to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations, or to respond to specific needs expressed by Member States, through training and research in the areas of peace and security, and social and economic development. Some programmes can respond to both needs, others can cater mainly for the one or the other. While the former requires more emphasis and effort from UNITAR in the follow-up of ongoing discussions, debates and processes within the United Nations system per se, the latter demands that the Institute have more flexibility and resources to adapt to the needs of specific countries and regions in addressing particular problems. Both types of programmes, however, require that the Institute be able to undertake training and outreach activities in a sustained manner.

60. The present report was prepared upon the request of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR for two main reasons. First, it was deemed necessary to take broad stock of the situation and the results obtained during the restructuring phase. While incurring no financial deficits, there has indeed been an apparent and steady increase in the quantity and quality of training programmes offered. This result is in line with the decision of the Board of Trustees, namely the maintenance of a balance between management and programme-related considerations. On the basis of the new situation, the Board of Trustees will now be able to contemplate the next steps, starting with a period of consolidation, namely on how UNITAR can adhere to the spirit of its original mandate, and participate in the ongoing reflections on multilateral development cooperation. The second aim of this short report is to better inform Member States, as well as the organs and agencies of the United Nations system, of the results obtained during the restructuring phase. It should satisfy most of the requests submitted during the debates in the General Assembly over the last few years, namely that a special role be maintained for UNITAR in the field of training and that, at the same time, the Institute be made more cost-efficient.